GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1251
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
FOREST RESERVES
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of forest reserves in North Western States; and

(b) the details of action plan formulated to check cutting of trees and increase the forests?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) As per State of Forest Report, 1997 published by Forest Survey of India, Reserve Forest in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan is as under:

State	Reserve Forest (in sq.km)
Gujarat	13,819
Maharashtra	48,373
Rajasthan	11,585

(b) Following are the details of action plan formulated for increasing the forest and to check illicit felling:

(i) Affesttation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governmentsfrom their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.

(v) A net work of protected areas has been established.

(vi) States are engaging Forest Protection Staffto check illicit felling of trees as provided for in State Forest Acts as it is primarily States' responsibility.

(vii) Recently, Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry andtree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources